



# TOP 5 KIDS & FAMILY GARDENING IDEAS

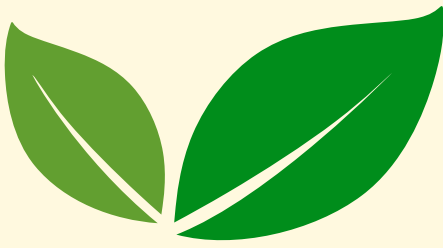
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1076640



## RUNNER BEAN WIGWAM

Find a spot in the garden or get a large container and dig in lots of compost.

Ark out a circle with sand and create a tee-pee using bamboo canes or coppiced hazel.

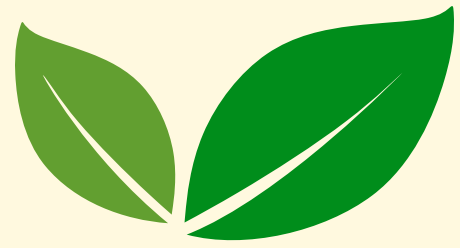
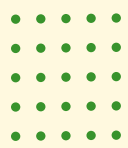
Push the canes into the soil at 10 to 20 cms apart, leaving a 50cm gap as the entrance to your tee-pee and tie the top of your canes together.

At the base of the canes, plant a runner bean – there are many types so have fun choosing! Put some compost into the planting hole.

Water regularly as runner beans like plenty and they will grow and cover the canes forming a tee-pee.

Pick, cook and eat as your plants produce beans!





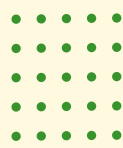
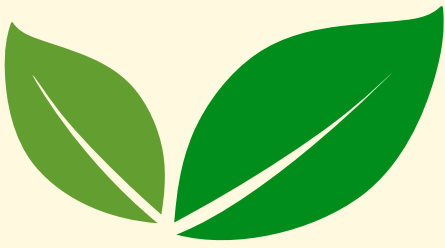
## LEAF MOBILES

A great way to teach children the UK's native trees.

Collect the leaves of native trees such as oak, beech, birch, hazel, willow, bird cherry & hawthorn.

Press them on blotting paper between two heavy books and when they're dry, seal them in sticky backed plastic sheets and cut to size.

Using a fishing line and old coat hangers or tree twigs/branches, create a mobile by attaching your leaves and hang it up!



## LAWN FURNITURE

Create some incredibly comfortable, natural furniture on an existing lawn!

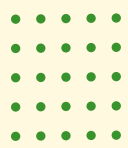
Make two piles of soil – one large one small. The large one is to sit with your back to, the smaller one you'll rest your legs over. Alternatively, make one pile and mound up the soil on one side for a back rest.

Once you're happy with your soil piles, buy some strips of turf. These are inexpensive and can be found at most garden centres. Cover the soil piles in your turf and pin in place with tent pegs.

After a few weeks, the turf will have rooted, and you will be able to use your lawn furniture.

Simply clip it when the grass starts to get too long with scissors or shears.





## EDIBLE HANGING BASKETS

These are ideal to make and look after at a school or great for gardening in a small space.

You will need a wire hanging basket, some moss or sisal, peat-free compost and fertiliser.

Some edible plants to use could include: tumbling (cherry) tomatoes, strawberry plants, herbs (basil, coriander, chives, parsley etc), salad leaves and certain types of petunia (just be sure to check they're an edible variety!)

Use all the basket and plant through the sides as well as the top. Build-up in stages, like layers of a cake.

Be sure to check your basket daily, treating your mini garden as if it's a family pet! Give it plenty of water, pick out any dead leaves, prune (pinch the tips of the plants) and occasionally spray with liquid feed.



## DALEK COMPOSTER

This can be a great junk modelling/recycling project!

Take an old plastic compost bin or water butt – this will be the main body of your Dalek. You will then need the following to decorate your Dalek: half tennis balls, old CDs, old plastic bottles for the main body, a washing up bowl, a round bowl, a whisk and tongs for the head – and any other items according to your imagination!

You will need sprays or paints to colour your Dalek and a window of perspex could be put into the side to show the composting process.

Compost techniques vary, but one example is:  
50:50 'greens' (live material such as grass clippings, weeds, fruit waste etc.)  
and 'browns' ('dead' materials such as cardboard, paper and wood shavings).

Turning and watering the compost will help it break down so make sure the top of your Dalek can be removed!



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Chris Graduated from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and has previously been Head Gardener at Westminster Abbey.

He's done much TV work including This Morning and being a former Blue Peter gardener.



**Greenfingers** is a national charity dedicated to creating magical, therapeutic gardens for life-limited children and their families and carers to improve their time spent in hospices across the UK.

Greenfingers aims to provide all life-limited children, their families, and carers, within their hospice, emotional support through the power and pleasure of nature.



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